

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABC, POLICE RUN DECOY OPERATIONS IN SAN PEDRO WITH ONLY ONE VIOLATION

Authorities Conduct Undercover Shoulder Tap & Minor Decoy Operations

(San Pedro) - Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Los Angeles Police Officers recently conducted undercover decoy operations targeting sales of alcoholic beverages to minors and only found one violation. Several patrons were asked at six liquor stores to purchase alcohol for a minor on December 1, 2005 during a Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation in the city of San Pedro. Only one adult agreed to purchase alcohol for the minor. Authorities also conducted a Minor Decoy Operation, in which minors under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators and Los Angeles Police attempted to purchase alcohol from eight on-sale locations and none sold to the minor.

Under the Shoulder Tap Program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcoholic beverages. The minor indicates in some way that he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcoholic beverage.

If the adults purchase alcohol for the minor, Investigators arrest and cite them for furnishing alcoholic beverages to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

Under the Minor Decoy Program, minors, under direct supervision of Police Officers and ABC Investigators, attempt to purchase alcohol from ABC licensed businesses. Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC and Los Angeles Police have worked closely with the Gaffey Street Corridor Business Watch, a group of San Pedro businesses working together. Over the past two months, ABC and Los Angeles Police have conducted IMPACT (Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-related Crime Tendencies) inspections. During the inspections business owners and their employees were educated on ways to prevent Alcohol-related crimes in their neighborhood. ABC and Los Angeles Police credit the education and awareness among the businesses as a primary reason for the nearly violation-free compliance checks during the past week.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright-McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

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